

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5188

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PGOV CH PINR

SUBJECT: NEW FIRST SECRETARY IN HUPEH

REF: HONG KONG 0071

PROVINCIAL BROADCAST (MAY 28) IDENTIFICATION OF REHABILITATED VETERAN CADRE CHAO HSIN-CHU (6392/6580/0443) AS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HUPEH REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (RC) REDUCES THE LIST OF TOP PROVINCIAL VACANCIES TO THREE-- ANHWEI, LIAONING, AND TSINGHAI (REFTEL). (THIS IS THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE THE HIGH OF TEN VACANCIES FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 1973 MILITARY REGION (MR) COMMANDER TRANSFER). CHAO'S APPOINTMENT PASSES OVER PARTY SECOND SECRETARY WANG LIU-SHENG, A MILITARYMAN CONCURRENTLY THE WUHAN MR FIRST POLITICAL COMMISSAR. CHAO HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN HUPEH POLITICS SINCE AT LEAST 1952 AND WAS A PROVINCIAL PARTY SECRETARY (1956) AND VICE GOVERNOR (1958) BEFORE MOVING UP TO BE VICE MINISTER OF CULTURE IN 1965 WHERE HE WAS SACKED ALONG WITH

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THE REST OF THE MINISTRY'S HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL IN THE

CULTURE REVELOTION. CHAO FIRST RETURNED TO POLITICAL LIFE, LIKE KWANGTUNG'S PARTY CHIEF CHAO TZU-YANG (APRIL 16, 1974, HONG KONG 4176), WITH A MINOR POST IN INNER MONGOLIA DURING LATE 1972, BUT BY JULY 1973 HAD RETURNED TO HUPEH AND HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A PROVINCIAL PARTY SECRETARY AND RC VICE CHAIRMAN. HE WAS ELECTED AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE AUGUST 1973 TENTH PARTY CONGRESS. WITH THE ABSENCE OF A NAMED PARTY FIRST SECRETARY-- AFTER THE 1973 MR COMMANDER TRANSFERS-CHAO SOON TURNED UP AS THE TOP-RANKED CIVILIAN LEADER IN PUBLIC APPEARENCES THERE. DURING THE 1974 ANTO-LIN/CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN, HUPEH AND PARTICULARLY THE CAPITAL WUHAN WERE THE SCENS OF FACTIONAL STRUGGLES, WORK STOPPAGES, AND CONSIDERABLE POSTER-PASTING (HONG KONG 0042). CHAU CAME UNDER CRITICISM, BUT THE VIRULENCE OF ATTACK DID NOT MATCH THAT RESERVED FOR EARLIER HUPEH LEADERS (OCTOBER 12, 1974, PEKING 1768). CHAO WAS ELECTED TO THE PRESIDIUM OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS IN JANUARY 1975. CROSS

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